# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2649
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS
Sharma Shri Madan Lal

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government proposes to undertake a project to promote awareness among farmers about medicinal plants and make them cultivate the plants on a large scale ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has set up Medicinal Plant Board with a view to safeguard the commercial interest of farmers producing these plants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ( SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & b): Financial assistance has been provided by Medicinal Plants Board under Promotional Scheme to various Govt./Non-Govt. Organizations in different parts of the country for extension activities - Information, Education and Communication, which include creation of awareness among farmers about cultavation of medicinal plants.

(c): Does not arise.

(d) & e): Government has set up Medicinal Plants Board to look after policy formulation, coordination with Ministries / Departments, ensuring sustained availability of medicinal plants and to coordinate all matters relating to their development and sustainable use. The Board has implemented Contractual farming Scheme under which financial assistance @ 30% of the project cost, maximum upto Rs. 9.00 lacs, is provided to farmers/growers for cultivation of identified medicinal plants. It is also ensured that these farmers have buy-back arrangement for their produce. Training programmes were organised in the states of Assam, Uttaranchal, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh by National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur (an organisation under Ministry of Agriculture). The training module covered aspects of Cultivation, Post Harvest Management and Marketing of medicinal plants. The participants included farmers also. Such programmes are proposed to be organized in other states also. Further, a committee on `Assured Market for Growers of Medicinal Plants` has also been constituted to look into all the related aspects.